

**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL**

EXPRESS MAIL NO. EL564077624US

I hereby certify that this Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO-1449 are being deposited as EXPRESS MAIL this date with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to the , Box PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on:

Date: August 30, 2001

By

Shmuel A. Berman

31011 U.S. PTO

09/943487

08/30/01

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant:	Yakov Epshteyn et al.	Docket No.	SFI 718D1
Serial No.:	Not yet assigned	Parent Group Art Unit:	1763
Filing Date:	August 30, 2001	Parent Examiner:	S. MacArthur

Title: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REMOVING  
A MATERIAL LAYER FROM A SUBSTRATE**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98**

Box PATENT APPLICATION  
Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Since each document is found in the file of application Serial No. 09/736,472 from which this application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120, no copies are being provided herewith. Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are patentable over the foregoing references, alone or in combination. The Examiner is requested to initial the enclosed Form PTO-1449 and return a copy thereof to the undersigned.

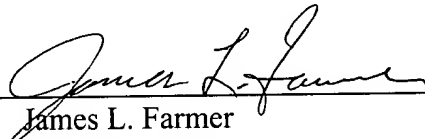
The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants reserve the right to dispute the listed documents as prior art during examination. Further, Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the

present application. Furthermore, the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other material information may exist.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1) and therefore, not fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 30, 2001

  
James L. Farmer  
Reg. No. 42,525

**SPEEDFAM-IPEC CORPORATION**  
305 North 54<sup>th</sup> Street  
Chandler, Arizona 85226-2416  
(480) 705-2668